

## CHANGES IN WARSHIPS

Plans to Make United States Vessels Ready for Battle.

### GREATER USE OF ELECTRICITY

Much of the Mechanism to Be Controlled by It—Most Conspicuous Change Is in Color Scheme—Fire Control Masts to Displace Old Military Style.

The sixteen battleships of the Atlantic fleet will go from the navy yards, where they are now being overhauled and docked, on June 15 radically changed in outward appearance. The vessels will practically be in a condition for action to a degree which has never before prevailed in the naval service in time of peace and when there has been no prospect of war. These important changes are mainly the result of experience gained during the circumnavigating cruise of the fleet, which Secretary Meyer says cost the government \$1,500,000 above what would have been the cost of maintenance and operation had the ships remained in home waters.

The most conspicuous change which the civilian observer will recognize is in the color of the vessels. The hull, small boats and, indeed, all of the exposed portions will be of a shade described as dull gray, without the luster to reflect the sun or otherwise add to the prominence of the ship. It is the color decided upon by the experts as least likely to attract attention and as possessing the greatest degree of invisibility. This idea has been carried out by the removal of all the brass fittings, even to the doorknobs, and includes the abandonment of the bow ornaments and the gilt letters of the ships' names.

The removal of the bow ornaments is justified not only as a means of taking from the ship a conspicuous feature, but as accomplishing a reduction in the weight carried by each vessel. The policy is to reduce these weights so as to bring each vessel down to fighting trim, carrying only those things of practical value in attack, which is considered before the factor of defense. There has been an elimination of some of the boats carried by the battleships, with the substitution of motor for row or sail boats, so that time may be saved and the burden reduced. It is in this connection that there has been a removal of what is known as top hamper. Much of the material which has hitherto made the main deck of a battleship an overcrowded platform has been placed below deck, out of sight and range of an enemy's shots, or has been entirely eliminated.

Another feature which has been tried out successfully is the method of carrying ammunition. Some of this will be stored in the turret, where it will be conveniently at hand and where it is considered quite as safe to those who handle it as if it were stored in the shell rooms below the turret. This makes possible an emergency supply of projectiles, with a saving in the time of handling and a corresponding increase in the rapidity of fire. The problem of taking care of powder has engaged expert attention, and there is now being adopted a system of cooling the magazines so that there can be maintained a uniformity of temperature as a protection against accidental ignition.

A conspicuous change is the installation of the fire control masts and the removal of the old military masts. The new structures are of steel piping, so interlaced as to resist attack and remain in position, no matter if the enemy succeeds in hitting the mast and cutting the metal in many places. The platforms at the top are to be used by the range finders in determining the distance from the enemy. This requires an elaborate system of electrical communication, which is also being installed and which will be tried out during the target practice to be held in August or September, probably off the Virginia capes.

Electricity is being used to a greater extent than ever before, and much of the mechanism on board the ships is now to be controlled in that way. This is especially so in the turning of the turrets, which can be regulated to a degree hitherto impossible and with a nicety of movement that renders it possible to describe the complete arc of the turret at so deliberate a rate as to be imperceptible to an observer. The searchlights have been taken from the positions they have hitherto occupied and been hung on the skeleton masts. In the coming maneuvers it is proposed to ascertain if these positions are the most effective, and some twelve or fifteen of the torpedo boats will be used in exercises in conjunction with the big ships.

Many changes will be made in the superstructure of the ships, and wherever possible the temporary bridges and cabins will be removed. It is probable that some of these structures

will be replaced, but it is desired in the coming summer to ascertain what can be permanently omitted with advantage in the maneuvering of the ships. Internally many minor changes will be made.

These are a few of the changes being made on the ships of the Atlantic fleet and which will be made next year on the ships of the Pacific fleet. It means the placing of the battleships of the American navy in a condition for battle without the trouble and confusion of throwing overboard all the things which would have to be abandoned when going into action.—Washington Cor. New York Tribune.

### GREAT AFRICAN REGATTA.

Zambezi River to Be Scene of Gathering of World's Crews.

The Zambezi river above the Victoria falls, in Africa, is to be the scene of a great international regatta, managed by the British South Africa company, in June, 1910. It is expected that crews from all the rowing centers of the world will participate, and there will be races for fours, pairs and scullers as well as for eight oared crews. The company has arranged that the famous oarsman Guy Nickalls take charge of the affair. In a recent conversation at London Mr. Nickalls said: "Owing to the date falling just before the end of the term I am afraid there will be difficulty in getting a crew to go out from Oxford or Cambridge, but I hope to get a Canadian crew over from the Argonaut club and one crew, if not two or three crews, from the United States as well as entries from Belgian and possibly French and Italian clubs. I think I can count on Leander being represented. I am going out to Africa to have a look at the course and watch South African rowing. I shall get there in time for their annual Whitsuntide regatta and shall be able to judge if their form will enable them to compete with the rest of the world's oarsmen or whether it will be necessary to have an inter-African challenge cup. I shall get back just in time for Henley, where I hope to meet French, Italian and Belgian crews and get them interested in the matter."

### HAT THAT CAUGHT A ROBIN.

Bird Alighted to Pick Cherries—Feet Tangled in Trimming.

A deluded robin came to grief the other day in Flushing, N. Y., because a pretty girl wore a peach basket hat trimmed with artificial cherries. The girl was walking along Broadway near the old courthouse when the robin, on a lower limb of a tree, spied the hat and its trimmings. It hopped from its perch on to the hat and started to pick at the cherries.

The girl screamed and clutched at her hat. The robin's feet caught in the trimmings, and it was held a prisoner. A man went to the assistance of the girl and the robin. Then the robin escaped.

**Novel Street Lighting.**  
The quantity of light which it is now possible to obtain at a reasonable cost from tungsten lamps in series has led to an innovation in street lighting in some Michigan towns which, it is thought, may find wide adoption. In Grand Rapids, where the system seems first to have been applied, the tungsten lamps are strung across the street between the eaves of the buildings in such a way that they form the outline of an arch. The effect of a series of these illuminated arches at night resembles that of a canopy of lamps covering the street and shedding down upon it a pleasing illumination. The same system has been adopted in Big Rapids and is under consideration in Greenville and other towns.

**Violet Wisconsin's Flower.**  
Returns from the vote of Wisconsin school children on the choice of a state flower are all in, and the violet wins by a big majority.

**Jenner as an Eater.**  
Dr. Jenner, the famous English physician, was a great tea drinker and very abstemious, never taking any stimulant except a measured glass of brandy when he had indigestion. Once for that cause he lived on stewed chops and rice for luncheon and dinner, with tea, for a couple of years, but ordinarily he was a great feeder.

"I recollect," said his friend, Dr. Cooper Bentham, "on one occasion Reynolds came to see him. Jenner was at dinner. He had soup, fish, the greater part of a chicken, and he was in the middle of a huge rice pudding when Reynolds entered and asked him how he was. Jenner drew a pitiful sigh and replied, 'I am not at all well—no appetite.'"

For a burn or scald apply Chamberlain's Salve. It will allay the pain almost instantly and quickly heal the injured parts. For sale by Titusville Pharmacy.

For any pain from top to toe, from any cause, apply Dr. Thomas' Electric oil. Pain can't stay where it is used.

### GAMBOL OF THE LAMBS.

Famous Club's All Star Show to Open With a Street Parade.

Clay M. Greene, chairman of the entertainment committee of the all star gambol of the Lambs club, announced the other night that the program of the frolic to be held at the Metropolitan Opera House, in New York, on Monday evening, May 24, had been completed.

The show will open with a minstrel parade in the afternoon, led by Victor Herbert and his band of fifty pieces. The marchers will wear pongee coats, with Connemara capes and conical high hats. All the Lambs in New York will take part.

The performance will be in three sections, with musical interruptions by Victor Herbert and his orchestra. The first division will be an old time negro minstrel show, with such diversions as Augustus Thomas can devise, aided and abetted by A. L. Erlanger, William Harris, David Belasco and Joseph Brooks.

The second part will introduce De Wolf Hopper as a tragedian. Weber and Fields will present on the occasion their well known pool room scene, and William Collier will appear in Ben Burt's new musical number, "After the Matinee," with a dozen female impersonators, recruited from the younger members of the club.

The afterpiece, "Tuesday," by George V. Hobart, is a return to the form of entertainment in vogue in the late eighties. It tells the story of the post-mortem of a "near hit" melodrama. The cast will include Donald Brian, Wilton Lackaye, John E. Keller, Robert Edeson and other famous actors. Even the soldiers and spearmen will be well known actors.

### ROCKHILL AS A TIBETAN.

Incident in the Career of the New Ambassador to Russia.

Take it from William Woodville Rockhill—doesn't that sound like a name in a play?—that exploring Tibet is like sauntering down a shady lane. The new ambassador to Russia is distinctly skeptical of those gentlemen who go to Tibet and get themselves hung up by the lobe of the ear and have repousse designs in powder burns worked all over them in the button-hole stitch. They make him think, he says, of a certain famous attempt to find the north pole, in which the relief party got so much farther north than the explorer did that the unfortunate scientist had to hurry like thunder to catch up with it. That farthest south arctic expedition has been equaled, he says, by some of the Tibetan explorers.

And Mr. Rockhill ought to know, for he wandered all over Tibet, protected by a cold American nerve and his looks—not that he is proud of his looks. When he planned that Tibetan trip he was second secretary of the American legation at Peking, and his servant was a native Tibetan. "Am I too handsome to pass for a Tibetan?" asked Mr. Rockhill of the menial. Mr. Rockhill was slyly facetious. The Tibetan was as solemn and matter of fact as the death record in the family Bible. He said he feared the displeasure of the noble lord if he were to answer truthfully. Mr. Rockhill began to lose the savor of that jest, but he insisted. "But the noble lord will hereafter hate his faithful servant," protested the Tibetan.

"Darn it," said Mr. Rockhill in excellent Tibetan, "you tell me what's the matter with my looks?" "All is wrong," said the Tibetan—"everything is wrong with the excellency's looks save and except his magnificent big nose. Because of that most spectacular and ornate organ he may pass as a Tibetan of the second class, and by further disguise he may be accepted as one of the nobility. But the nobility are very handsome men."

Just the same, Mr. Rockhill traveled unmolested all over Tibet and didn't have to raise his voice during his stay in the Forbidden Land. Even if he isn't a good looking Tibetan he is ordinarily considered a very classy American. Tall, portly, of distinguished presence, he is an ardent scholar.—New York Globe.

**New Style in Creases.**  
Frenchmen, who regard King Edward VII. of England as the best dressed man in Europe, have been interested in noticing since his majesty has been in Paris incognito that he wears his trousers creased down the side instead of down the front.

**"Baby Party" in Society.**  
Miss Mabel Page, a society girl of Bayonne, N. J., gave a baby party the other night. Guests appeared in infants' costumes, some acting as nurses. Coffee was served from nursing bottles.

**Bad Attack of Dysentery Cured.**  
"An honored citizen of this town was suffering from a severe attack of dysentery. He told a friend if he could obtain a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, he felt confident of being cured, he having used this remedy in the west. He was told that I kept it in stock and lost no time in obtaining it, and was promptly cured," says M. J. Leach, druggist, of Wolcott, Vt. For sale by Titusville Pharmacy.

### UNIQUE PLEA FOR PARDON.

"Kick Me Out or I'll Corrupt Prison Morals," Convict Wrote Governor.

Governor Walter R. Stubbs of Kansas recently received a peculiar letter from a prisoner in the Kansas penitentiary. Usually the letters the governor receives are that the prisoner is not guilty at all, or if guilty he did not mean to do it and just forgot himself or let his temper get away with him. But there is one prisoner who offered a different reason for the governor letting him out of the prison. Here it is:

Judging from what I have read and from conversations held with prisoners in this penitentiary, I have arrived at the conclusion that I am about the only guilty scamp in this place. I cannot plead innocence. I can't write a classical poem, and I have no "flowers blooming in the conservatory of my soul." You have no idea how lonesome this leaves me. Better kick me out of here, lest I corrupt the morals of the institution.

Every man in the penitentiary who believes himself wronged or innocent is convinced that he would be able to do society much good if turned out by the governor. But a long time ago the governors learned that some of the prisoners had a mistaken idea of their innocence or usefulness, so it is seldom that a governor pays much attention to this kind of letters. Somehow or other it has become noised about that Governor Stubbs would encourage frankness in prisoners and that he expected at least some evidence of reform to convince him that some of the criminals were worthy of executive clemency.

The governor receives all sorts of letters from prisoners, both in the prison and in the reformatory, every day, but the one received the other day was the most novel one of which there is any record in the governor's office. The letter contains much other matter referring to this prisoner's case, and that quoted is only a part of the letter. The governor declined to give out the name of the prisoner. Governor Stubbs is considerably interested in the man who wrote the letter, and it is possible that some action may be taken in regard to his case.

### Largest Observatory in the World.

Ground was recently broken at Mount Wilson for the construction of the telescope tower which is being constructed by an observatory company. It will be the largest of its kind in the world and will cost \$50,000. The dome will be 175 feet above the ground and will be composed of two towers, one inside the other. This is to eliminate vibration. The towers will be built three inches apart and will not be connected in any place except at the foundation.

### New Dignity For President Taft's Son.

Robert A. Taft, son of President Taft has been elected president of the Yale Debating association. Young Taft holds more offices than any other Yale undergraduate. He is treasurer of the Young Men's Christian association and president of the Yale Civil Government club. Besides being an officer of Phi Beta Kappa, the honorary high standard society.

### Did His Best.

A Baltimore man was recently showing his nice new opera hat to his little nephew, and when he caused the top piece to spring open three or four times the youngster was delighted.

A few days thereafter the uncle, during a visit to the same household, brought with him a silk hat of the shiny, noncollapsible kind. When he was about to leave the house he encountered the aforesaid youngster running down the hall with what looked like a black accordion.

"Uncle Ed," observed the boy, "this one goes awfully hard. I had to sit on it, but even then I couldn't get it more than half shut."

### Hair Structure.

Some women's hair is naturally curly or wavy, to the envy of their friends of the same sex. Others have straight hair, which can only be made to wave or curl by artificial means. The difference between the two is easily explained. Straight hairs are oval in section. A negro's hairs kink because they are flat in places. The heat of the curling tongs when applied to straight hairs causes each of them to contract on one side and to curl in that direction, whence the beautifying effect obtained, which is necessarily temporary.

### Boys Will be Boys

And are always getting scratches, cuts, sprains, bruises, bumps, burns or scalds. Don't neglect such things—they may result serious if you do. Apply Ballard's Snow Liniment according to directions right away and it will relieve the pain and heal the trouble. Price 25c., 50c. and \$1.00. Sold by all druggists.

**Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA**

### Often The Kidneys Are Weakened by Over-Work.

Unhealthy Kidneys Make Impure Blood.

Weak and unhealthy kidneys are responsible for much sickness and suffering, therefore, if kidney trouble is permitted to continue, serious results are most likely to follow. Your other organs may need attention, but your kidneys most, because they do most and should have attention first. Therefore, when your kidneys are weak or out of order, you can understand how quickly your entire body is affected and how every organ seems to fail to do its duty.

If you are sick or "feel badly," begin taking the great kidney remedy, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root. A trial will convince you of its great merit.

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### NOTED SOUTHERN AUTHORESS

Reminiscences of Mrs. Augusta E. Wilson, Writer of "St. Elmo."

Mrs. Augusta Jane Evans Wilson, as far as selling powers go, was one of the most successful novelists in America. The most famous books of the well known southern authoress, who recently died at her home in Mobile, Ala., are probably "St. Elmo," which was published in 1868, and "Vashti," published in 1869. She was not a prolific writer, like other novelists of her school, and her books, commencing with "Inez" in 1856, number only nine. Her other works are "Benlah," "Macaria," "Infelice," "At the Mercy of Tiberius," "A Speckled Bird" and "Devota," the last work from her pen, which appeared in 1907.

"Macaria" was popular among the soldiers of the civil war, and it is said that a copy of the book once saved the life of one of them. He took it from his shirt one day and was surprised to find a bullet imbedded in its pages.

When Mrs. Wilson was eleven years old her family moved from Columbus, Ga., to San Antonio, Tex., which soon afterward became the headquarters of the troops sent to assist General Taylor. Their glittering uniforms, the stirring martial music and exciting events of the war, combined with the exquisite scenery about the place, strongly impressed her and furnished the theme for "Inez, a Tale of the Alamo." The story, written when she was fifteen and presented to her father as a Christmas gift, was brought out by the Harpers in 1853.

It was not until she published "Benlah," however, that she tasted the fruits of substantial success. That work ran through edition after edition.

"St. Elmo," of course, was Miss Evans' great success. Its sale was tremendous, and hamlets, hotels, steamboats and country seats were named in its honor. It contains a description of the spot records the fact that he discovered a Parsee boy in the shadow of the tomb reading the London edition of one of Mrs. Wilson's books.

For "Vashti," which followed, the author received in a single check, while it was still in manuscript, \$15,000. Mrs. Wilson never wrote a magazine or a newspaper article, although she had frequently been importuned for both. One editor offered to allow her to fix her own price on a serial story, and a publisher agreed to pay her \$25,000 if she would permit him to bring her novels out in a cheap paper back form, so as not to interfere with the library edition, but both propositions were rejected.

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